

arrangement wherein the personal computer 1 imports or transfers contents from a portable device, but the present invention is not restricted to a portable device; rather, contents may be imported or transferred from recording mediums such as magnetic disks, optical disks, magneto-optical disks, and so forth.

While the above series of processes can be executed by hardware, this can also be executed by software. In the event of executing the series of processes by software, the program making up the software is provided in dedicated hardware which is assembled into a computer, or is installed to, for example, a general-purpose personal computer, capable of executing various functions by installing various types of programs, from a program storing medium.

A program storing medium which stores the program to be installed in a computer so as to enable the computer to execute the program comprises, as shown in Fig. 2, packaged media such as magnetic disks 41 (including floppy disks), optical disks 42 (CD-ROMs (Compact Disk Read-Only Memory)), DVDs (Digital Versatile Disks), magneto-optical disks 43 (including MDs (Mini-Disks)), or semiconductor memory 44 or the like, or ROM 12 or a HDD 21 where the program is temporarily or permanently stored. Storing of the program to the program storing medium is performed using online or wireless communication media such as a Local Area Network,

the Internet, digital satellite broadcasting, etc., via an interface such as a router or modem, as necessary.

In the present specification, the steps describing the programs stored in the program storing medium may of course be executed in the time sequence following the order in which they are listed, but are not restricted to being executed in this time sequence, and may be executed in parallel or individually.

Also, in the present specification, the term "system" represents all equipment made up of multiple devices.

With the information processing apparatus according to the first aspect, the information processing method according to the second aspect, and the program storing medium according to the third aspect, reading of data relating to contents and rights information corresponding to contents from a recording medium is controlled, and in the event that the rights information indicates permission to import contents, display is controlled so as to display a first icon in accordance with the data, so the user can speedily know operations which are permitted regarding the contents, without troublesome operations.